

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 CPR-01 PM-04
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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9526

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 11000

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (SCHMIDT, HELMUT), PINR, GW

SUBJECT: OFFICIAL VISIT OF CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT TO THE
U.S., JULY 13-15, 1977: BIOGRAPHIC SKETCH
OF RUDOLF WOLFF

REF: STATE 56826

1. WE HAVE PREPARED THE FOLLOWING BIOGRAPHIC SKETCH
ON RUDOLF WOLFF, A MEMBER OF CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT'S
OFFICIAL PARTY. THIS INFORMATION IS ALSO IN PARTIAL
RESPONSE TO THE REF REQUEST FOR DATA ON WOLFF AND KLAUS
KINKEL (WE SENT DATA ON KINKEL IN OUR 7471). SO FAR,
WE HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO FIND GOOD PHOTOS OF EITHER
WOLFF OR KINKEL.

2. WOLFF WAS BORN IN 1921 AND STUDIED LAW AT COLOGNE
UNIVERSITY IN 1947-1951. HE ENTERED THE FRG FOREIGN
SERVICE IN 1952 AND SERVED FIRST IN ANKARA (1955-1959).
WOLFF SPENT 1959-1965 IN THE FOREIGN OFFICE, PROBABLY
IN THE REFERAT FOR SOVIET AFFAIRS. HE NEXT SERVED IN
MOSCOW (1965-1970), WASHINGTON (1970-1974), AND OTTAWA
(1974-1976). WOLFF ACQUIRED THE RANK OF MINISTER IN
1971. SINCE 1976, HE HAS LED FOREIGN OFFICE REFERAT
NO. 204 WHICH COVERS THE U.S., U.K., CERTAIN COMMON-
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WEALTH ISSUES, CANADA, IRELAND, AND THE NORDIC STATES.

3. WOLFF AT TIMES APPEARS SOMEWHAT OUT OF PLACE IN THE
ATMOSPHERE OF THE FRG FOREIGN OFFICE. HE IS SENIOR IN
AGE TO MANY OFFICIALS OF COMPARABLE RANK. HE IS MORE
DELIBERATE IN HIS STYLE, LESS ARTICULATE IN HIS CONVER-
SATION, AND LESS ENERGETIC IN THE ACHIEVEMENT OF HIS

OBJECTIVES THAN MANY OF HIS COLLEAGUES. WE HAVE FOUND HIM TO BE A PLEASANT CONTACT, BUT NOT, HOWEVER, ALWAYS AN EFFECTIVE ONE. WOLFF DOES NOT STRIKE US AS PARTICULARLY IMAGINATIVE IN SEEKING SOLUTIONS TO UNUSUAL PROBLEMS. IN SOME INSTANCES -- E.G., PREPARATIONS FOR BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS WITH THE USG ON SVALBARD -- HE APPEARS NOT TO HAVE DONE HIS HOMEWORK WELL, OR TO HAVE DONE IT ONLY AT THE LAST MINUTE.

4. WOLFF HAS THE DEEPLY CHEERLESS FACE OF THE ADULT MALE BASSET HOUND. FORTUNATELY, HE DOES NOT HAVE THE PERSONALITY TO MATCH. HE HAS A WRY IF RESTRAINED SENSE OF HUMOR, AND HE IS A PLEASANT CONVERSATIONALIST. SO IS HIS WIFE, THE FORMER HILDEGARD HELLBACH. BOTH WOLFF AND HIS WIFE SPEAK ENGLISH. THEY HAVE ONE SON, NOW 16 YEARS OLD.
STOESSEL

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